The progress of the works of YAP-II is regularly reviewed with the concerned States and their Implementing Agencies at various levels in the Ministry. The Project Management Consultants (PMC) appointed for the YAP-II project as per the JBIC guidelines also assist the Ministry and the State Governments in the implementation of the project.

Use of loudspeaker

2313. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:
SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court has banned use of loudspeaker after 10 P.M.;

(b) whether the Court has further allowed the Government of Gujarat to notify 15 days in a calendar year, wherein use of loudspeakers is allowed upto 12 o'clock mid night;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the Government of Gujarat along with the resolution of Gujarat Legislative Assembly and other State Governments to make amendment in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and related laws for use of loudspeakers without any restriction of time limit during the religious and cultural festivals; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry had issued Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 on 14th February, 2000 banning the use of loudspeakers after 10 P.M. In a subsequent amendment on 11th October, 2002, State Government(s) were empowered to permit use of loudspeaker or public address system during night hours (between 10.00 P.M. to 12.00 mid night) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasions of a limited duration not exceeding 15 days in all during a calendar year.

(c) and (d) In pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Writ Petition No. 72 of 1998 regarding noise pollution—

implementation of laws for restricting use of loudspeaker and high volume producing system dated 18th July, 2005, some representations were received from State Governments including from the Government of Gujarat alongwith the Motion passed on 14th September, 2005 by Gujarat Legislature. Looking at the diversity of cultures and religions in India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its subsequent order has observed that a limited power of exemption from the operation of the Rules granted by the Central Government in exercise of its statutory power cannot be held unreasonable and the power to grant exemption is conferred on the State Government. The Hon'ble Court, further, has observed that the State Governments should notify in advance the number and particulars of the days on which such exemptions would be operative.

Fund for Forest Sector Development in Orissa by JBIC

2314. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) has sanctioned Rs. 560 crores for various projects under the Orissa Forest Sector Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the project aims at promoting sustainable forest management and enhances poverty alleviation in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARIAN MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, Orissa Forestry Sector Development Project is being implemented with the Loan Assistance from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The project duration is 7 years starting from 2006-07 to 2012-13. The total cost of the project is 659.75 crore, including Rs. 100.08 crores as state share. This project aims at promoting sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation in the State. The components of the project, *inter alia*, include Sustainable Management of Natural